

**STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE DURING THE  
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP  
SESSION ON AFGHANISTAN ON 27 JANUARY 2014**

[Speaking time: 1 hour 20s ]

Mr President,

Singapore recognises the challenges faced by Afghanistan in the current transition period and welcomes its Government's efforts in participating in the UPR. We note the Government's commitment to enhance the rule of law and respect of human rights to bring about national unity and development as highlighted in its report. In particular, we note that the Government has been making significant efforts to prevent human rights abuses by the police and security forces. Actions have been taken by the Ministry of Interior Affairs and National Directorate of Security against police officers who have committed inhuman acts and torture. The Government has also established the Department for Monitoring Implementation of Final and Definite Decisions of the Courts to prevent illegal and arbitrary detentions. Singapore **recommends** that Afghanistan continues its efforts to enhance the rule of law and ensure peace and safety in its society.

We also take note of the progress made by the Government in protecting women and girls. These include the adoption of the Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women which criminalizes all acts of violence against women and the setting up of the Special Prosecution Office for countering violence against women. We also note that the number of women working in the judiciary has doubled since 2009. Singapore **recommends** that Afghanistan continues its efforts in strengthening the domestic legal system to protect women and girls and promote greater gender equality.

We join the many friends of Afghanistan in wishing it success in promoting and protecting human rights.